Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) An [[M]]method of controlling the printing process for feeding sheets of printing material in a digital printing machine, ~~preferably a digital printing machine, on~~ having a controller and a continuous loop transport means, ~~in particular a transport belt,~~ which has at least one dead space section, ~~specifically a seam, and~~ which is ~~preferably~~ included in a transport path ~~which~~to permit[[s]] an ~~the~~alternate selection between simplex printing and duplex printing, ~~in which case it has been taken~~by taking into account that a region, preferably the leading edge of a respective sheet on the transport means, is detected ~~for the control of a printing process by means of~~by a detecting device, and controlled by the controller to prevent the mixing of a printing order including sheets to be duplex-printed with sheets to be simplex-printed by coordinating the feeding time of the sheet to be printed on the diverse side with the feeding time for the same sheet to be printed on the reverse side;

    ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the controller checks to see if the sheet to be printed has the obverse side printed and if the result is no, the obverse side is moved to the next free position, and if the result is yes, the sheet is checked to see if the reverse side is to be printed, and if the result is no the reverse side is moved to next free position, and it is checked again, if obverse side is to be printed.
    ~~when a sheet is fed, its region to be detected is prevented from entering the dead space section of the transport means.~~

2.   (Currently Amended) The [[M]]method ~~as in~~of Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the feeding time for a sheet, which has its detectable region fall within the dead space section, is delayed by a period which corresponds to the size of the dead space section in transport direction divided by the transport speed of the transport means.

-3-

3.   (Currently Amended) ~~The [[M]]~~method ~~as in~~of Claim 1 wherein~~or 2,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ when the sheet is fed for obverse printing, said sheet, or its region to be detected, is prevented from entering a section to be occupied by a sheet to be printed on the reverse side.

4.   (Currently Amended) The ~~[[M]]~~method ~~as in~~of Claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the feeding time for the sheet, which is to be detected or which has a detectable region fall within the section of the sheet to be printed on the reverse side, is delayed by a period which corresponds to the size of this said section in transport direction divided by the transport speed of the transport means.

5.   (Currently Amended) The ~~[[M]]~~method ~~as in one of the previous claims,~~ ~~in particular as in~~of Claim 4, ~~characterized in that,~~ further comprising considering the section of a sheet, said sheet's length in transport direction and a required intermediate space relative to a subsequent sheet are taken into account.

6.   (Currently Amended) The ~~[[M]]~~method ~~as in~~of Claim 5, ~~characterized in that,~~further comprising considering the section of a sheet, in addition, a space for register marks on the transport means is taken into account.

7.   (Currently Amended) The ~~[[M]]~~method ~~as in~~of Claim ~~5 or~~6, ~~characterized in that,~~further comprising considering the section of a sheet, in addition, the length of time multiplied by the transport speed, which requires a set-up of the printing machine for said sheet's preparation or said machine's resetting in response to control information for its function as part of the printing process, is taken into consideration.

8.   (Currently Amended) The ~~[[M]]~~method of Claim 1 wherein the continuous transport is a transport belt.~~as in one of the previous claims,~~

-4-

~~characterized in that, for duplex printing, the feeding time of the sheet to be printed on the obverse side is coordinated with the feeding time for the same sheet to be printed on the reverse side.~~

9. (Currently Amended) The [[M]]method of Claim 1 wherein the dead space is a seam which is included in the transport path~~as in one of the previous claims, in particular as in Claim 8, characterized in that,~~ when the sheets ~~are fed, the mixing of a printing order consisting of sheets to be duplex-printed with sheets to be simplex-printed is prevented~~.

10. (Currently Amended) The [[M]]method of Claim 9 wherein~~as in one of the previous claims, in particular as in Claims 5 through 7, characterized in that, when~~ the transport means is (fully) loaded between the dead space section and [[its]]a return after one cycle of the transport means~~,~~ ~~the~~such that any sections to be occupied by the sheets are distributed uniformly on the transport means and any sheets between the seam and another seam receive an additional intermediate space.

-5-